

**FRIENDS OF MILLER PENINSULA STATE PARK
P O BOX 2664
SEQUIM WA 98382**

27 August 2007

Aquatic Reserves program Manager
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Aquatic Resources Division
PO Box 47027
Olympia, WA 98504-7027

RE: PPS APPLICATION FOR MILLER PENINSULA AQUATIC RESERVE

Friends of Miller Peninsula State Park (FMPSP) is extremely pleased to support People for Puget Sound's (PPS) application to establish for educational purposes a DNR Aquatic Reserve on the Miller Peninsula. FMPSP is a non-profit organization formed in 1994 to educate citizens about state parks. We are the Friends group for the Miller Peninsula State Park. FMPSP, formerly Save Our State Park, was instrumental in both saving land on the Miller Peninsula for a 1700 acre state park and later increasing its size to almost 3000 acres. The Miller Peninsula State Park (Park) is considered a crown jewel of WA State Parks and Recreation and will be dedicated as a 2013 Centennial park.

This park is heavily forested, includes two miles of beach on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and is within easy view of the USFWS Protection Island. The many snags in the Park along the bluff fronting this water body host many eagles. There are 2-3 active eagle nests within the Park. Too, its coast is lined with Blue Herons in addition to hosting black oyster catchers, rhinoceros auklets, pigeon guillemots and an array of many other land and sea birds. The Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, based in Sequim, semi-annually counts birds in the Park and along this coastal stretch. There are two large lagoons on the beach within the proposed Reserve area. Seal tracks from the beach to the lagoon have been seen, leading us to think the lagoons may be nurseries for seal pups. In sum, the marine areas on and between the Miller Peninsula and Protection Island are hosts to many of the same species.

Additionally, black bear and cougar visit the Park and, of course, deer are common on land and on the beach. Within the Park are two very sizeable wetlands. The Native Plant Society has listed the diverse plants in the Park. Some small animals have been identified.

The Aquatic Reserve would be a wonderful addition to what this Park could offer visitors in the way of education. It would also increase the knowledge base of the area. And, importantly, it would add protection to this very special park.

The Friends strongly supports PPS's application to site a DNR Aquatic Reserve on the Miller Peninsula. Feel free to contact us if we can be of additional assistance in approval of this application.

Respectfully,

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President
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